

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The subject matter of claims 10 and 15 has been incorporated into the independent claims. The subject matter of claims 17 and 19-21 has been incorporated into claim 14.

1) The Rejection Of Claims 8-21 Under §112, 1st Paragraph

The specification was said not "to support the first, second and third sections of the support being joined as in claims 8, 9, and 14."

With reference to the drawing figures, claim 1 is taken as exemplary and recites: "a flexible support (2) having a length and a width, the flexible support consisting essentially of a first surface section joined by a second surface section to a third surface section, the flexible support bendable from a planar configuration to an overall orthogonal configuration where that the first surface section is orthogonal to the third section and the bent second surface section forms a quarter-circle arcuate surface."

With reference to Figure 1, the first surface section corresponds to the left-hand portion of support 2, the second surface section corresponds to the middle portion of support 2, and the third portion corresponds to the right-hand portion of support 2.

In Figure 1 there is illustrated the planar configuration and in Figure 3 there is illustrated the overall orthogonal configuration where the first surface section is orthogonal to the third surface section and the bent second surface section forms a quarter-circle arcuate surface.

Thus, although this claim language because although the specification does not use the terms found in the claim, the recited subject matter is clearly disclosed.

2) Anticipation by ALEXANDER

The anticipation rejection is moot in view of the incorporation of the claim 10 and 15 subject matter into the independent claims.

3) Obviousness over RUBY or FR '936; in further view of DRATLER BURCHENAL or STOUT

None of the references are seen to teach or suggest a ceramic/stone tile comprising a flexible support bendable from a planar configuration to an overall orthogonal configuration where there is a first surface section that is orthogonal to a third section and a bent second surface section forms a quarter-circle arcuate surface.

DRATLER, BURCHENAL, and STOUT disclose the attachment of tile/brick to a flexible backing, but there is no disclosure that the flexible backing will bend into an overall orthogonal

configuration where there is a first surface section that is orthogonal to a third section and a bent second surface section forms a quarter-circle arcuate surface.

DRATLER and BURCHENAL do not show any bending. STOUT shows bending at odd angles but does not teach or suggest forming a bent second surface section that forms a quarter-circle arcuate surface.

Thus, although the references teach 1) flexible supports and 2) tile/stone on a flexible support, neither teach or suggest that tile/stone can be bent to include a bent second surface section forming a quarter-circle arcuate surface. The prior art, even in combination, does not suggest tile that provides, in the orthogonal configuration, exposed surfaces of the first through third surface elements adjoining each other to form a continuous exterior surface, with the surface elements bonded to the flexible support.

The combination of features recited by claim 14 is not believed to be obvious as this combination is not taught or suggested by the applied art, even if combined together.

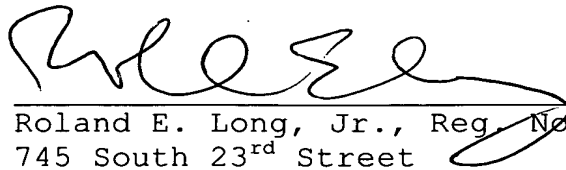
Accordingly, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are therefore respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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